

September 20, 2001

Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc.

Vol. XXIII, No. 1

WHAT	NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF PSPCS
WHERE	DES MOINES MASONIC TEMPLE 2208 S. 223rd St. (Take Midway exit #149 west off I-5...go to first stop light west of Pacific Hwy. South...Turn right.)
WHEN	Thursday, September 20th..7:30 p.m. till 10:00 p.m. (doors open about 6:30 p.m.)
WHY	Short business meeting..auction (one item lot per member please)..door prize..Show & Tell..member's trade and sell tables (free to members, please cover during business meeting.) <u>Program:</u> Tales & treasures from your summer hunting..no treasure too small..no tale too large!

### WELCOME TO YEAR 23:

Here we go again..our twenty-third Great Year. Hope you all had an interesting, fun, treasure filled summer and are going to share your finds with us at the meeting. I don't know about you..but I have had almost as much fun following the Mariners this summer as I have searching out treasures. Lets hope the Baseball Gods keep smiling on Seattle for another six weeks.

### SHOW COMMITTEE SIGN-UP:

This is the meeting to sign up for our 22 Show Committee. The first Committee meeting will be in November and then there are four more from January through April. The work is easy and fun, you meet some nice people, get some perks and have the satisfaction of knowing you have been a productive active Club Member. Be sure to sign up at the meeting.

### OCTOBER INTER-CLUB GATHERING ON 20TH:

Remember, there will be NO Bellows and NO regular meeting in October because of the Inter-club Gathering we are hosting on Saturday, October 20th at the Bingo For Kids Causes Hall.

The Hall is located at 2217 Maple Valley Highway. Take I-5 to HWY. 405 at South Center...take HWY. 405 East for about two miles to the Maple Valley Highway exit...go east less then one mile and the Bingo Hall will be on your right.

Bill and Gary say they would very much like some help setting up the hall on friday evening from 6 to 9 pm. As a reward for helping you may set out your one free table of treasures after the hall is ready. However, there will be no overnight security. The hall will be open at 7 a.m. on Saturday with the public allowed in free begining at 9 a.m. The gathering will end about 4 p.m. For more information contact Bill Adams evenings at (206) 824-0183.

This Inter-club Gathering is free to all Camera Collecting club members in the Northwest. It is P.S.P.C.S.'s way of saying hi and thank you for supporting our Annual April Show. There is no charge for one table each and no admission charge. About \$200.00 will be spent to alert the public to the event. Please come join us for a fun day of selling, swaping and telling tales of the hunt.

## **\*\*BACKSIDE INFORMATION\*\***

The June 21st meeting of the Puget Sound Photographic Collectors Society came to order at 7:32 p.m. There were 40 members and 1 guest in attendance. The minutes of the May meeting were approved as read. Treasurer, Shirley, reported we will head into fall in good financial shape.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Bill Adams reported our October Inter-club Gathering is ready to go..(see page one, Ed.) and Shirley has sent \$600.00 to rent the Bingo Hall Gathering site. Gary Sivertsen reported on his successful garage sale. The September program will be, "great finds over the summer".

### **PROGRAM..SHOW & TELL:**

Nine members brought beautiful displays of photographs they had taken. There is quite a bit of photographic talent in our membership. Thank you to all who took part.

Gene Raddatz had an interesting Show & Tell.

### **AUCTION..DOOR PRIZE:**

Eleven items were presented for auction. Three items failed to get an opening bid but the other eight sold of a total of \$113.00.

Claire Carey and Mike Comstock won door prizes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. for more selling and cookie munching.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **NEW SHOW IN BREMERTON ON OCTOBER 27th:**

P.S.P.C.S. member, Jack Aylward e-mails that the Pacific NW Photographic Society will be hosting their first Camera Swap Show Saturday, October 27th at the Kitsap County Fair Grounds from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. There will be 24 tables available at \$20.00 each. Set-up is Friday evening from 6 to 9 p.m. or Saturday morning from 6 to 9 a.m. There will be a sleeping guard in the building Friday to provide over night security. Admission is \$4.00 for adults and \$2.00 for kids over twelve. For all information contact Jack at (360) 377-6501..e-mail: [jaiama@msn.com](mailto:jaiama@msn.com) Write to: Jack Aylward..3222 Classic Ave. NE..Bremerton, WA 98310. Give it a look..no telling what treasurer might show up or what eager buyer might attack your table.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **THIS MONTH'S MYSTERY QUESTION:**

Answer at end of Newsletter

With thanks to the Arizona Photographic Collectors:

What rare camera was made for the Secret Service by the Eastman Kodak Company in 1944-45?



---

**THE BELLOWS** Newsletter is published 10 times per year by Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc. Information for The Bellows should be sent to Bill Kimber 1413 Weathervane Dr., Tacoma, WA 98466-5712 (253) 564-4046, [billkimber@webtv.net](mailto:billkimber@webtv.net)

The P.S.P.C.S. internet address is: <http://www.geocities.com/pspcs/index.html>

Dues are \$10.00 per year and should be sent to Secretary/Treasurer Shirley Sparrow, 300 Pease Road, Cle Elum, WA 98922 (509) 674-1916, [ssparrow@eburg.com](mailto:ssparrow@eburg.com) P.S.P.C.S. members receive first notification of our last Saturday in April yearly show.

---

PRESIDENT: DARREL WOMACK (206) 244-6831 [darrelcam@jps.net](mailto:darrelcam@jps.net)

---



### COLLODION WET PLATE PHOTOGRAPHY

One of the best essays on the wet plate collodion process was a report on the state of the art by J. Traill Taylor in the British Photographic Journal Almanac for 1896, p751 to p786. The article is based on 45 years of experience with the process, and is complete to the point of including the details of how to make your own pyroxyline, which dissolved in ether and alcohol, is collodion.

Quoting Taylor: "The process was introduced as a negative one, but it was soon discovered that by modifying the developer very fine direct positives could also be obtained in the camera, and it was this that led to the downfall of the Daguerreotype process; for, while collodion positives, when skillfully made, possessed equal, or almost equal, merits with even the finest Daguerreotypes, they could be produced with much greater simplicity, with less expense, and a shorter exposure in the camera, while their permanence is undoubted.

The collodion process is a very simple one, and when care is taken to keep the chemicals in good working order it is a very sensitive one by which negatives of a singular degree of excellence can be obtained. Indeed, the productions by this process have long been held up as standards of excellence to which to attain by gelatin-workers."

According to Taylor, no two makers adopt precisely the same formula for the iodized collodion, and a collodion with nothing more than two grains of ammonium iodide per ounce has given excellent results. However, the formula recommended by Taylor "for every purpose" and one that I have "kitchen tested" is as follows:

Cadmium Iodide	65 grains
Ammonium Iodide	25
Cadmium Bromide	19
Ammonium Bromide	11
Ethyl Alcohol	5 ounces

Dissolve in alcohol and add to 15 ounces of pure collodion.

The silver bath consists of 30 to 40 grains of silver nitrate per ounce of water, and saturated with iodide by placing a coated plate in the solution for at least 30 minutes, or add a small crystal of iodide.

For tintypes or ambrotypes, a ferrous sulfate developer is used:

Ferrous Sulfate	1/4 oz.
Acetic Acid	1 oz.
Alcohol	1/2 oz.
Water	8 oz.

The addition of a small amount of nitrates or nitric acid to the developer may give a whiter image.

A fix containing 5 to 10 grains of potassium cyanide per ounce of water was used. However, a plain 10% hypo (sodium thiosulfate) works just as well and is a lot safer to use. Incidentally, ferrous sulfate solution is an antidote for cyanide poisoning, but as my chemistry professor often said, "A drop of cyanide on the tip of your tongue will kill a dog!" Or: "Don't use a pipette for cyanide solutions. Use a graduate. If you use a pipette, we won't have any graduates!"

The process consists of: set up and focus the camera, and when ready to take the photograph, pour a small amount of iodized collodion on the plate (tintype or ambrotype). Rock the plate to get an even coating, and pour the excess back into the bottle. When the collodion sets in a minute or so, place the plate in a container of silver nitrate solution (in the darkroom by safelight) for about two minutes, by which time the plate takes on a milky appearance. Drain the excess solution from the plate and load the holder, and make the exposure.

Return to the darkroom, remove the wet plate from the holder and, holding it level, pour an ounce or so of the developer on the plate. Do not immerse the plate into a tray of developer as with other processes. In about a minute, the image should appear. Rinse the plate with water (especially important if using a cyanide fix) and place into a tray of hypo to clear. Wash in running water for about 10-15 minutes and dry. Very carefully spray with a clear acrylic (or schellac) to preserve.

When I tried the process, I used a Recomar type camera, and the Kodak plate holders were very adaptable to the process. I also scaled down the amounts of chemicals used to more practical limits.

## OTHER FALL SHOWS:

Besides our Inter-club Gathering on October 20th there are two shows scheduled for November. These have both been very good shows in past years and are well worth attending.

First, is the Fall Camera Swap Meet. This is the 13th annual show put on by Dwight Bash at the Washington County Fairplex next to the Hillsboro Airport west of Portland off U.S. Highway 26. The Show is Saturday, November 10th with doors open to sellers at 6:00 a.m....early admission is \$15.00 at 8:30 a.m. and General Admission is \$5.00 at 10.00 a.m. Tables start at \$35.00. There will be NO Friday evening set-up this year. For all information contact Dwight Bash (503) 650-8333 email: deebash@aol.com

Second, is Siggie's Vancouver B.C. Camera Show and Swap Meet on Sunday, November 25th at the Seaforth Armoury..1650 Burrard at West 1st Ave. The 165 tables are \$30.00 each. There is NO Saturday set-up. Sellers can set-up beginning at 7:30 a.m. Sunday. Early Bird is \$15.00 at 9:00 a.m. and General Admission is \$4.00 at 10:00 a.m. For all information contact Siggie Rohde (604) 941-0300.

\*\*\*\*\*

The following is from the July 2001 American Photographic Society newsletter and is used with much thanks. Ed.

## ***JENA CONTAX CAMERAS NOW CHARTED BY NUMBERS, LENSES AND MORE***

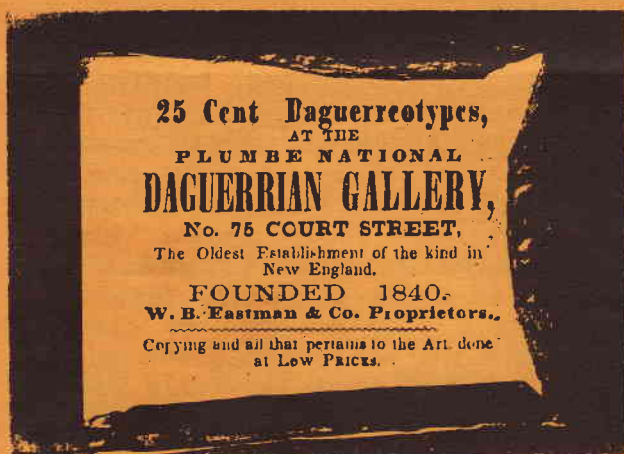
Historian-collector Kurt Juttner has compiled a listing of Jena Contax camera. It has been issued as a supplement to the Spring 2001 issue of *Zeiss Historica*, publication of the Zeiss Historical Society of America. The society studies Zeiss-related information beginning with 1846 to the present. For information, president Lawrence J. Gubas or editor John T. Scott at 300 Waxwing Drive, Monroe Twp., NJ 08831. Membership is \$45 (US).

## ***DAGUERRIAN ERA HISTORIAN OPENS WEBSITE ACCESS TO ESSAYS, ETC.***

Historian R.D. Wood has long been a researcher of the days and events surrounding the announcement of the invention of daguerreotypy and the Diorama. His studies have been widely published over the years. Now his material is available on the Internet for all to read: <midleykent.fsnet.co.uk>

\*\*\*\*\*

The following is from the MiPHS Photogram., May-June 2001 and is used with much thanks. Ed.



### **The Cost of a Daguerreotype:**

According to this sticker, found on the back of a small daguerreotype, they could be gotten for 25¢ at the Plumb National Gallery. But what is the present day equivalent to a quarter in 1850? Apparently the W.B. Eastman & Co. was not relate to George Eastman.

Antique: Any object that has made the round trip to the attic and back.

Bargain: Something you don't need sold at a price so low that you want it.

Optimist: A fisherman who takes along a camera.

\*\*\*\*\*

**So**

What rare camera was made for the Secret Service by Eastman Kodak Company in 1944-1945?

**Answer:** EKC's Matchbox Camera, a simple metal and plastic camera shaped like a matchbox Made for the Office of Strategic Services. 1/2 x 1/2" exposures on 16mm film. Rare! \$2800-4000. (From 11th Edition of McKeown's Price Guide to Antique & Classic Cameras 2001-2002)



MATCHBOX CAMERA - 1944-45.